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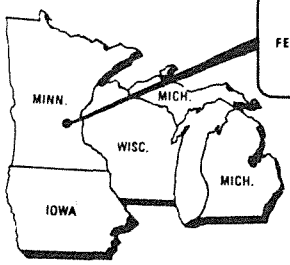


Rpt. S-72-3 July, 1972

AERIAL SURVEY OF ASPEN AND BALSAM FIR-SPRUCE DEFOLIATION ON THE OTTAWA N.F., MICHIGAN - 1972

By

Glen Erickson

INTRODUCTION

Aspen defoliation by the Large Aspen Tortrix, Choristoneura conflictana Wlk., was first reported in 1970 along U.S. 2 (T45N, R40W). In 1971 defoliation was found in the Marenisco area (T46N, R43W) and Victoria Reservoir area (T49N, R39W). Aspen defoliation in 1972 was wide spread throughout the forest.

METHODS

The survey was flown June 21, 1972, in a Cessna 172 to delineate the defoliated areas. Flight lines were in an east-west direction 6-10 miles apart, 1000 feet above the ground at 120 mph.

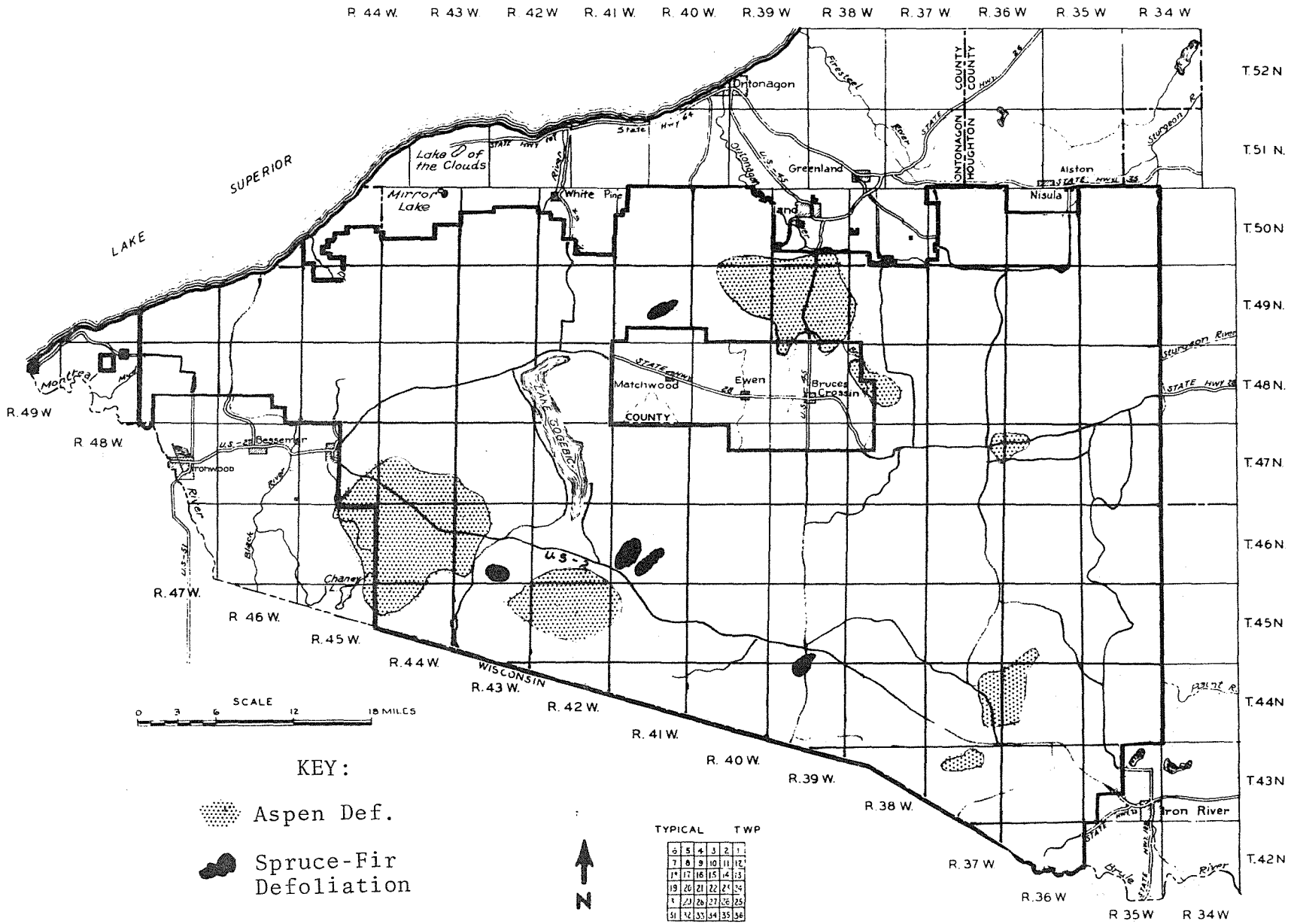
Defoliation was classed as light to moderate--visible crown thinning up to about 50% foliage loss; moderate to heavy--50% to complete defoliation.

RESULTS

Light to moderate defoliation was found in several aspen stands (see map). Moderate to heavy defoliation was confined to small groups or stands within the defoliated areas.

Also, observed was moderate to heavy defoliation of balsam fir and white spruce by the Spruce budworm, Choristoneura fumiferana (Clem.). Moderate to heavy defoliation of the spruce-fir type in T46N, R41W, has occurred since 1971. Of special note is the heavy to severe defoliation of the spruce in the seed production area, south of Watersmeet along U.S. 45. This is the third year of heavy defoliation in this area.

OTTAWA NATIONAL FOREST



Aspen, Spruce and Balsam Fir Defoliation
on the Ottawa National Forest - 1972